

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CARACAS

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 006175

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BEXP, VE

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECTS: PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT

--- PROGRAM AND P OPOSED VISIT TO U.S. OF

--- VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS

REF: CARACAS 12165

1. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT PROPOSED VISIT OF VENEZUELAN DECISION-MAKERS TO THE U.S. TO DISCUSS VENEZUELA'S PETROCHEMICAL PROGRAMS WOULD BE PRODUCTIVE UNDERTAKING AND CAN BE ARRANGED. HOWEVER, THERE ARE CERTAIN POINTS WHICH SHOULD BE CLARIFIED BEFORE ANY FURTHER USG EVENT IS PLANNED.

2. WE HAVE HEARD SEVERAL THEORIES REGARDING WHICH GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE ENTITIES WILL BE GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR VENEZUELA'S FUTURE PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT. THIS SITUATION PRESENTS SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR U.S. FIRMS WHICH ARE PURSUING BUSINESS IN THE PETROCHEMICAL SECTOR AND COULD CERTAINLY INFLUENCE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF A U.S. VISIT BY
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VENEZUELAN OFFICIALS. FYI: AS AN EXAMPLE, WE UNDER-

STAND THAT IVP HAS PLANNED TO CONCLUDE OPERATING AGREEMENTS FOR NEW PROJECTS WITH THOSE FIRMS WHICH ALREADY HAVE JOINT VENTURES WITH IVP ON OTHER FACILITIES. INTRODUCTION OF NEW U.S. OPERATING COMPANIES BY OTHER VENEZUELAN ENTITIES HAS BEEN INTERPRETED BY SOME U.S. TRADE SOURCES AS AN EFFORT TO UNDERMINE IVP. WE DO NOT WISH TO BE PUT IN MIDDLE OF THIS INTERNAL PROBLEM. WE WOULD ALSO WANT TO ASSURE THAT ANY USG-SPONSORED PROGRAM WOULD BE OF VALUE TO U.S. FIRMS; AND THIS CAN ONLY BE TRUE IF VENEZUELAN PARTICIPANTS CAN TRULY SPEAK WITH AUTHORITY REGARDING VENEZUELA'S FUTURE PLANS.

3. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE ASAP A DETAILED REPORT FROM THE EMBASSY ON THE CURRENT DELEGATIONS OF AUTHORITY IN THE PETROCHEMICAL SECTOR AND EMBASSY COMMENTS ON THE PROBABLE OUTCOME OF ANY BUREAUCRATIC CHANGES WHICH ARE TAKING PLACE. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE EMBASSY APPRAISAL OF SITUATION WITH OPERATING COMPANIES AND IVP, PER ABOVE, AND REQUEST EMBASSY PROVIDE US WITH A LIST OF U.S. FIRMS WHO HAVE CURRENT OPERATING AGREEMENTS WITH IVP. PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED OF ANY FOLLOW-UP WITH DR. RIVIERE OR OTHER OFFICIALS REGARDING PROPOSED U.S. VISIT OR OTHER MATTERS RELATING TO PETROCHEMICAL PROJECTS. KISSINGER

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